



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

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DISASTER FIELD OFFICE
7401 Timberlake Road
Lynchburg, VA 24502
FEMA-1458-DR-VA
Commonwealth Situation Report #14
Tuesday, April 15, 2003

1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

12 Noon Monday, April 13, 2003, through 12 Noon, Tuesday, April 15, 2003. (*New Information in bold italics.*)

2. SITUATION:

A major winter storm struck Virginia beginning February 15 causing major flooding in Southwest Virginia and significant ice and snowfall in the Shenandoah Valley and areas of Northern Virginia. The weather pattern continued to bring warmer temperatures, melting snow/ice and more heavy rainfall, which combined to cause more local flooding.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency on February 16, 2003, to speed state agency assistance and resources to localities in need. The counties of Accomack, Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Essex, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester declared emergencies.

The Governor requested the federal Public Assistance program (PA) on February 28 for snow and/or flooding for the following localities: the counties of Albemarle, Arlington, Bland, Buchanan, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Grayson, Greene, Highland, Lee, Louisa, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester.

The Governor requested the federal Individual Assistance program (IA) on March 4 for these winter storm events in the counties of Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Montgomery, Prince William, Roanoke including the Town of Vinton, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Roanoke, Salem and Winchester.

A Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1458-DR-VA) was declared on March 27, 2003. The counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Montgomery, Russell, Tazewell and Wise and the cities of Norton, Roanoke and Salem were designated for Individual Assistance (IA). Public Assistance (PA) is available for the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Orange and Rappahannock and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church and Winchester. ***All jurisdictions in the state are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).*** A Disaster Field Office was opened in Lynchburg on March 31, 2003. The hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. ***Monday through Friday, and closed Saturdays and Sundays.*** The DFO telephone number is 434-832-8440 and the fax number is 434-832-8544.

The Virginia Farm Service Agency (FSA) has made emergency (EM) physical loss loans available to 10 Virginia counties due to blizzard damages that occurred from Feb. 15-Feb.18, 2003. Those counties are Amelia, Augusta, Culpeper, Fauquier, Highland, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Rockingham and Shenandoah. In addition to the above counties, 25 other Virginia counties/cities were named as contiguous counties/cities where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM physical loss loan assistance. Those Virginia counties/cities are Albemarle, Bath, Chesterfield, Clarke, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fairfax, Frederick, Greene, Harrisonburg City, Loudoun, Madison, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Rockbridge, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Staunton City, Warren, and Waynesboro City. These loans to Virginia counties/cities may be made available to applicants with a qualifying physical loss in the named counties/cities effective 3/18/03 through 11/18/03.

3. WEATHER:

Today. Sunny and warm. Highs near 80. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph. Tonight. Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 50s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph. Wednesday. Partly sunny and continued warm. Highs 75 to 80. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.

4. CURRENT STATE PRIORITIES:

- A. Implement strategies to distribute information to affected areas.
- B. Coordinate with FEMA for DRC locations.
- C. Encourage participation in FEMA sponsored training classes for DFO staff.***
- D. Implement Public Assistance strategies.
- E. Obtain state sum-sufficient funding for disaster.
- F. Manage expectations of disaster victims.

5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:

A. Individual Assistance (IA):

STATE CONTACT: Shane Townsend, 434-832-8516

Individual Assistance request for the designation of additional jurisdictions:
(As of COB 4-14)

A formal request for the designation of additional jurisdictions has been submitted.

The Commonwealth requested that the following jurisdictions be designated as eligible for Individual Assistance under Federal Declaration FEMA-1458-DR-VA.

Augusta, Bland, Fauquier, Frederick, Gloucester, Hanover, Henry, Lee, Loudoun, New Kent, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Roanoke, Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, and Warren Counties and the independent cities of Danville, Fairfax, and Winchester.

We are awaiting a reply.

Request for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA):
(As of COB 4-14)

*A formal request for Disaster Unemployment Assistance is currently being revised.
 The request should be finalized shortly and a decision made by COB Wednesday 16 April.*

Tele-registrations:
(As of COB 4-14)

Tele-Registrations			
Designated Jurisdictions		Undesignated Jurisdictions	
Buchanan Co.	307	Amherst Co.	1
Dickenson Co.	115	Arlington Co.	1
Montgomery Co.	32	Augusta Co.	1
Russell Co.	21	Bedford Co.	1
Tazewell Co.	24	Botetourt Co.	2
Wise Co.	105	Campbell Co.	1
Norton City	14	Franklin City	2
		Halifax Co.	1
Roanoke City	83	Henry Co.	1
		Lee Co.	1
		Pittsylvania	1
Salem City	97	Prince William	1
Total	798	Pulaski Co.	1
		Roanoke Co.	24
		Total	39

Inspection Services:
(As of COB 4-14)

FEMA contracted Housing Inspectors are dispatched to the damage address to assess damages for eligible registrations.

Inspections Issued, to date	598
Inspections Returned to FEMA	565
Inspections Outstanding	42
Inspectors in the Field	7
Turnaround Time	1.04

Individuals and Households Program (IHP) Overview:
(As of COB 4-14)

IHP is the premier federal grant program for Individual Assistance administered by FEMA and the Commonwealth. It is comprised of two components: Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance as listed below. The maximum grant that can be awarded is \$25,000.00 shared between the programs two components on a first come first served basis.

Eligibility Rate	70%
Registrations Referred	675
Registrations Approved	413
Registrations Ineligible	163
Registrations Withdrawn	17
Registrations Pending	82
Payments Approved	\$592,653.00
Payments Disbursed	\$586,786.00

Housing Assistance (HA): 100% Federal funded grants

A \$5,000.00 limit exists on grants for “housing repairs”.

<i>Eligibility Rate</i>	70%
Referrals	675
Approved	413
Ineligible	163
Withdrawn	17
Pending HA Categories	82
Amount Approved	\$592,653.00
Amount Disbursed	\$586,786.00

Other Needs Assistance (ONA): (75% Federal and 25% State funded Grants) Processing of referred applications to Other Needs Assistance must await the allocation of the estimated state share of funding. Some ONA grant categories are SBA Ineligible Dependent.

Eligibility Rate	0%
Referrals	290
Approved	0
Ineligible	100
Withdrawn	3
Pending ONA Categories	187
Amount Approved	\$0.00
Amount Disapproved	\$0.00

Small Business Administration: 100% Federal funded low interest loans
(As of **COB 4-14**)

Home Applications Issued	280
Business Applications Issued	25
Total Applications Issued	305
Total Applications Returned	36 (approved + pending)
Total Applications Approved	9
Total Applications Pending	27
Total Amount Approved	\$137,400.00

The SBA application return rate is at approximately 12%.

Sanctioned Communities:

Sanctioned communities are areas that are not enforcing flood plain management ordinances set forth by FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program, meaning community residents cannot purchase flood insurance. The town of Clintwood in Dickenson County is such a community.

Dwellings located in a sanctioned community and in a 100-year flood plain or a high hazard area such as a riverfront generally may not be considered for:

- Housing Assistance (IHP).
- Other Needs Assistance (IHP).
- SBA Assistance with home repair or personal property losses that are covered by the National Flood Insurance Program.

Dwellings located in a sanctioned community and in a 100-year flood plain or high hazard area such as a riverfront generally may be considered for:

- FEMA Rental Assistance where damages make the dwelling unlivable.
- FEMA Home Repair funds for flood losses not covered by NFIP where those repairs will make the home livable.
- ONA or SBA assistance with home repair or personal property losses that are not covered by NFIP.
- ONA assistance for Medical, Dental, Funeral and “Other” expenses/losses.

Dwellings located in a sanctioned community but not in a **100-year** flood plain or a high hazard area such as a riverfront may be considered for assistance without regard to the sanctioned status.

Disaster Related Deaths Reported:
(As of COB 4-14)

Jurisdictions		Initial Reports		Validated Reports	
		No. of Fatalities	Source	No. of Fatalities	Source
1	Augusta Co.	1	News	1	EM Coord
2	Fauquier Co.	1	EM Coordinator	1	Cnty Relations
3	Frederick Co.	1	Times Dispatch	1	EM Coord
4	Gloucester Co.	1	Daily Press	1	EM Coord
5	Hanover Co.	1	VDEM PA	Pending	
6	Loudoun Co.	1	Times Dispatch	3	EM Coord
7	Montgomery Co.	1	Times Dispatch	1	EM Coord
8	New Kent Co.	1	Times Dispatch	1	Cnty Relations
9	Pulaski Co.	1	VDEM PA	1	*EM Coord
10	Roanoke Co.	1	Local SitRep	1	EM Coord
11	Shenandoah Co.	1	Washington Post	2	EM Coord
12	Spotsylvania Co.	1	EM Coord	1	EM Coord
13	Warren Co.	2	EM Coord/News	2	EM Coord

* Ineligible – Foreign Diplomatic Status

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC):

The Virginia Department of Social Services has agreed to supply state DRC Managers for the following DRCs:

Reception Report

DRCs	Salem City	Buchanan Co	Wise Co	Dickenson
Apr 5	4	-	Opened Apr 14 th -	Opens Apr 21 st
Apr 6	9	-	-	-
Apr 7	14	-	-	-
Apr 8	13	17	-	-
Apr 9	16	14	-	-
Apr 10	13	5	-	-
April 11	12	16	-	-
April 12	6	8	-	-
April 14	10	16	5	-
Total	97	76	5	-

As of Thursday April 17, the hours of operation for all DRCs will be 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A DRC opened on April 5 at the Regional Office of the Virginia Department of Forestry, 210 Riverland Drive, Salem, Virginia 24153 Phone: (540) 387-5461 Fax: (540) 387-5462. Service hours are **9 a.m. to 6 p.m.** Monday through Saturday.

A DRC opened on April 8 at the Buchanan County Courthouse, Main Street, Grundy, Virginia 24614 Phone: (276) 935-6567. Service hours are **9 a.m. to 6 p.m.** Monday through Saturday.

A DRC to serve Wise County ***was opened*** on Monday, April 14, at 5701 Industrial Park Road in the town of Wise. This facility has been used in previous disasters as the Disaster Field Office. Hours of operation will be **9 a.m. to 6 p.m.** Monday through Saturday.

A DRC to serve Dickenson County is scheduled to open on Monday, April 21, at a fire station in the town of Clintwood. County officials have confirmed availability of the Clintwood Fire Department building on Volunteer Avenue from April 21 through 26 and from April 28 through May 2. Telephone installation is scheduled for April 18. Hours of operation will be **9 a.m. to 6 p.m.** Monday through Saturday.

We are coordinating with the Internal Revenue Service office in Richmond to get Disaster Tax Kits to the DRCs for distribution.

B. Public Assistance (PA):

STATE CONTACT: Robert Anderson, 434-832-8506

- Requesting declaration add-ons for snow emergency work only for the following jurisdictions: Prince William County, Shenandoah County, Warren County, City of Manassas, and City of Manassas Park.
- Received one Request for Public Assistance from a potential applicant, Marymount College of Virginia – PNP – reviewing their eligibility.
- ***Received Request for Public Assistance from Orange County Airport.***

- ***Requesting declaration add-on for flooding for 17 additional jurisdictions in addition to the five listed above for snow.***
- Scheduling additional Kick-Off meetings for eligible Snow jurisdictions as follow:
Thursday, April 17, 2003 – Herndon - 9:30 am
Falls Church – 1:00 pm
Tuesday, April 22, 2003 – VDOT (Richmond) – 11:00 pm
Wednesday, April 23, 2003 – Arlington – 11:00 am

C. Community Relations (CR):

STATE CONTACT: Danny Hall, 434-832-8507

- FEMA/State teams have been deployed to the declared localities and briefed on Community Relations activities for the field.
- Field Officers are distributing the FEMA telephone registration 1-800-621-FEMA.
- Field Officers are distributing the FEMA DRC location flyer in the Roanoke Valley and the Buchanan County/Grundy area.
- Field Officers are continuing to assess the unmet needs/ special needs in their assigned jurisdictions.
- Community Relations is validating reported fatalities during the declared disaster event. Upon receipt of the counties' designation, Field Officers will meet with the victims' families.

D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):

STATE CONTACT: *David Corzilius*, 434-832-8475

- Completed agenda for April 17 meeting with Roanoke County, and Cities of Roanoke, Salem and Town of Vinton.
- Continued to edit the Public Assistance Environmental Consideration Document for FEMA-1458-DR-VA.
- Developed an outline for environmental/historic resources coordinating agency scoping meeting, ***date to be announced.***
- A floodplain management workshop for local officials, consultants, and others will be held on May 6, 2003, at the Eastern Mennonite Retirement Center in Harrisonburg, VA. The Central Shenandoah Project Impact, the VA Association of Floodplain Managers, and the Department of Conservation & Recreation will sponsor the workshop. The point of contact for registration information is Jackie Miller at 804-786-0237.
- NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) is conducting Damage Survey Reports visits in Wise, Russell, and Buchanan Counties as part of their Emergency Watershed Program. Mitigation has requested to be updated on the number of counties, the number of sites and estimated costs of the EWP work.
- Members of HM staff will attend a meeting with Congressman Boucher at his office in Abingdon on April 24, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the Hurley HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program) Project. Representatives from FEMA, HUD, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Cumberland Plateau Planning District, and Buchanan County are also invited to attend. Locations and schedules for the HMGP Pre-Application briefings are to be reviewed based upon the completion of the PDAs (Preliminary Damage Assessments). Tentative schedule is the week of April 28.

E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):

STATE CONTACT: Bob Lambert, *434-832-8449*

- Continued work on the production of a comprehensive news-media contact list, including compiling e-mail addresses of statewide media contacts.
- Field PIOs continued to contact news media in the declared area; distributed news releases and provided information on the recovery effort, emphasizing the amount of housing assistance provided to date and the Disaster Recovery Centers in Salem, Grundy and Wise.
- The two key messages are: Call to register for assistance – do not determine your own eligibility; visit the Disaster Recovery Center, and Disaster Assistance does not affect other government programs.
- Drafted a news release on localities added to the declaration, and will disseminate once the additional jurisdictions are confirmed.
- Sent a news release on the opening of the Disaster Recovery Center in Clintwood at the fire station on April 21. The hours of operation will be from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.
- Coordinated with Virginia Employment Commission on disaster unemployment release, *due for release on Wednesday, April 16.*
- *Distributed a flier about the days and times of operation for the Clintwood Disaster Recovery Center.*
- *Distributed a news release about the adjusted hours of operation for the Disaster Recovery Centers.*
- *Conducted preliminary research for mitigation success stories based on April 17 meeting in Vinton.*

F. Legislative Liaison:

STATE CONTACT: Marge Atkins, 434-832-8486

- *Drafted notification for potential add-ons.*
- *Reviewed distribution list to determine necessity for adding state elected officials.*
- *Visited Salem DRC.*

G. Information and Planning:

STATE CONTACT: *Judy Hurley*, 434-832-8538

- Continuing to refine the Situation Report input and distribution procedures.

H. Deputy State Coordinating Officer:

STATE CONTACT: Mary Camp, 434-832-8505

- Actions to review damage assessments *have been completed* in several jurisdictions and designations of eligibility for federal assistance should be known in the next *few* days.

Michael M. Cline, SCO